

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims below replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A high-brightness polarizing plate, comprising: a polarizing plate ~~that comprises a polarizer and a protective film prepared on one or both sides of the polarizer~~; a brightness enhancement film; and an adhesive layer through which the polarizing plate and the brightness enhancement film are laminated with the protective film interposed between them, wherein

the protective film has an in-plane retardation R_e of 0 to 10 nm and a thickness-direction retardation R_{th} of -30 to 10 nm, wherein

$R_e = (n_x - n_y)d$ and $R_{th} = \{(n_x + n_y)/(2 - n_z)\}d$, wherein

n_x is a refractive index in an X-axis direction in which a maximum in-plane refractive index is obtained, n_y is a refractive index in a Y-axis direction perpendicular to the X-axis, n_z is a refractive index in a Z-axis direction which is the film thickness direction, and d is a thickness (nm) of the protective film, and

the polarizing plate comprises a polarizer and a protective film prepared on one or both sides of the polarizer, and the polarizer and the protective film are adhered with an adhesive.

2. (Original) The high-brightness polarizing plate according to Claim 1, wherein the protective film contains (A) a thermoplastic resin having a substituted and/or unsubstituted imide

group in side chain and (B) a thermoplastic resin having a substituted and/or unsubstituted phenyl and nitrile groups in side chain.

3. (Previously Presented) The high-brightness polarizing plate according to Claim 1, wherein the protective film is a biaxially stretched film.

4. (Previously Presented) The high-brightness polarizing plate according to Claim 1, wherein the polarizer is an iodine-containing polyvinyl alcohol-based film.

5. (Previously Presented) The high-brightness polarizing plate according to Claim 1, wherein the brightness enhancement film is an anisotropic reflection polarizer.

6. (Original) The high-brightness polarizing plate according to Claim 5, wherein the anisotropic reflection polarizer is a composite of a cholesteric liquid crystal layer and a quarter wavelength plate.

7. (Original) The high-brightness polarizing plate according to Claim 5, wherein the anisotropic reflection polarizer is an anisotropic multilayered thin film capable of transmitting linearly polarized light in one direction of vibration and reflecting linearly polarized light that in another direction of vibration.

8. (Original) The high-brightness polarizing plate according to Claim 5, wherein the anisotropic reflection polarizer is a reflective grid polarizer.
9. (Previously Presented) The high-brightness polarizing plate according to Claim 1, wherein the brightness enhancement film is an anisotropic scattering polarizer.
10. (Previously Presented) A high-brightness polarizing plate, comprising the high-brightness polarizing plate according to Claim 1 and at least one optical film.
11. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal panel, comprising a liquid crystal cell and the high-brightness polarizing plate according to Claim 1 attached to at least one side of the liquid crystal cell.
12. (Original) A liquid crystal display, comprising the liquid crystal panel according to Claim 11.
13. (Previously Presented) An image viewing display, comprising the high-brightness polarizing plate according to Claim 1.